



EDUCATION SPECIALIST INSTRUCTION CREDENTIAL

Requirements for Individuals Prepared Outside of the United States

California has a two-tier credential structure. A five-year preliminary Level I credential is the first document issued after an individual meets basic credential requirements. The Level II is the clear credential is issued once all credential requirements have been completed.

The Education Specialist Instruction Credential authorizes the holder to teach in the area of specialization listed on the credential in the following settings:

- Special day classes
- Special schools
- Home/hospital settings
- Correctional facilities
- Nonpublic schools and agencies
- Resource rooms

Areas of Specialization

- *Mild/Moderate Disabilities (M/M)*
Includes specific learning disabilities; mild to moderate mental retardation; attention deficit and attention deficit hyperactivity disorders; serious emotional disturbance; and authorizes service in grades K-12 and in classes organized primarily for adults through age 22.
- *Moderate/Severe Disabilities (M/S)*
Includes autism; deaf-blindness; moderate to severe mental retardation; multiple disabilities; serious emotional disturbance; and authorizes service in grades K-12 and in classes organized primarily for adults through age 22.
- *Deaf and Hard of Hearing (DHH)*
Includes deafness; hearing impairment; deaf-blindness; and authorizes service to individuals ages birth through 22.
- *Visual Impairments (VI)*
Includes blindness; visual impairment; deaf-blindness; and authorizes service to individuals ages birth through 22.
- *Physical and Health Impairments (PHI)*
Includes orthopedic impairment; other health impairment; multiple disabilities; traumatic brain injury; and authorizes service to individuals ages birth through 22.
- *Early Childhood Special Education (ECSE)*
Includes the mild/moderate and moderate/severe disabilities listed above, and authorizes service to children ages birth to prekindergarten only.

The credential process in California is made up of a sequence of requirements, which the teacher is given up to **five** years to complete. Teachers receiving the preliminary credential are making a commitment to complete the process and obtain the clear credential. The preliminary credential is issued for a maximum of five years. If requirements for the clear credential are not completed before the expiration of the preliminary, the holder will be unable to teach in California's public schools with that credential until those requirements are met and the document renewed.

Your Application Packet

Individuals who have completed their professional preparation program outside of the United States may apply directly to the Commission for their initial credential by submitting an application packet consisting of **all** of the following:

1. Completed application ([form 41-4](#)), and, if not previously submitted to the Commission, a completed LiveScan receipt ([form 41-LS](#)). Out-of-country residents have the option of submitting two fingerprint cards in lieu of a LiveScan receipt. If submitting fingerprint cards, current fingerprint processing fees must accompany the application packet in addition to the application processing fee. Fingerprint cards may be ordered by sending a request by e-mail to caworders@ctc.ca.gov.
2. Application [processing fee](#)

3. [Foreign transcript evaluation](#) (see Commission leaflet [CL-635](#), entitled *Foreign Transcript Evaluation* for additional information)

Requirements for the Five-Year Preliminary Level I Education Specialist Instruction Credential

Individuals who have completed a special education teacher preparation program outside of the United States may apply directly to the Commission for their initial credential by submitting an application packet consisting of all of the following:

1. [Foreign transcript evaluation](#) showing completion of a baccalaureate or higher degree from a college or university that has been deemed to be equivalent to a regionally-accredited institution in the United States
2. [Foreign transcript evaluation](#) showing completion of a professional preparation program in special education, consisting of a minimum of 24 semester units, including completion of a supervised field study, taken at a college or university that has been deemed to be equivalent to a regionally-accredited college or university in the United States
3. Issued or eligible for a comparable teaching credential earned in a country other than the United States. The credential does not have to be valid at the time of application. A photocopy of the credential is acceptable verification of this requirement.

Requirements for the Clear Level II Education Specialist Instruction

Individuals will need to complete **all** of the following to qualify for the Level II credential:

1. Satisfy the [basic skills requirement](#) if not met prior to the issue date of the preliminary credential or within the first year of the issue date of the preliminary credential. See Commission leaflet [CL-667](#), entitled [Basic Skills Requirement](#) for additional information.
2. Possess the California Preliminary Level I Education Specialist Instruction Credential
3. Developing English Language Skills, including Reading -- individuals must satisfy **one** of the following requirements:
 - a. Complete a course in Developing English Language Skills, including Reading, that is research-based and includes the study of phonemic awareness, spelling patterns, early intervention techniques, ongoing diagnostic techniques, and a strong literature, language, and comprehension component (submit a copy of the course description for evaluation purposes)
 - b. Pass the Reading Instruction Competence Assessment ([RICA](#)). Visit the Commission's website or the National Evaluation Systems (NES) website at www.rica.nesinc.com for more information.
4. Provisions and Principles of the U.S. Constitution – individuals must satisfy **one** of the following requirements:
 - a. Complete a course (at least two semester units or three quarter units) in the Provisions and Principles of the U.S. Constitution from a regionally-accredited college or university. Submit a copy of the course description for evaluation purposes.
 - b. Pass an examination in the Provisions and Principles of the U.S. Constitution given by a regionally-accredited college or university
5. Subject Matter Competence – individuals must satisfy **one** of the following requirements:
 - a. Achieve a passing score on the appropriate subject matter examination(s). (Information regarding the appropriate subject matter examination[s], including passing scores and registration, can be found in Verifying Subject Matter Competence by Examination leaflets [CL-674M](#) [Multiple Subject] and [CL-674S](#) [Single Subject] which may be obtained by visiting the Commission's website at www.ctc.ca.gov.)
 - b. Complete a Commission-approved subject-matter competence program or its equivalent and obtain verification of completion from the authorized person in the education department of a California college or university with an approved program. However, the availability of subject matter programs at California colleges or universities may be limited as they continue to phase out programs. (California colleges and universities may have recency requirements that have to be met before a subject-matter equivalency statement can be granted.)

- c. For specialized science subjects only, individuals may take and pass the appropriate subject matter examinations or obtain verification of completion of subject-matter course work from the Commission on Teacher Credentialing. Requirements and procedures can be found in [Coded Correspondence 03-0010](#).
 - *Verification of Subject-Matter Competence is **not required** for the area of Early Childhood Special Education.*
6. Complete at least three semester units in non-special education pedagogy related to teaching basic academic skills and content areas
 7. Supervised field experience in non-special education. Individuals must satisfy **one** of the following requirements:
 - a. Complete at least one semester unit of supervised field experience with non-special education students, verified by transcript
 - b. Complete 45 clock hours with non-special education students, verified by your employer
 8. Complete a course in Computer Education, including instruction in general and specialized skills, in the use of computers in educational settings
 9. Complete a course in Health Education, including, but not limited to, nutrition; the physiological and sociological effects of alcohol, narcotic, and drug abuse, and the use of tobacco (This requirement must include verification of training in cardiopulmonary resuscitation [CPR] that covers infant, child, and adult CPR skills. Submit a copy of the course description and CPR card for evaluation purposes.)
 10. Complete a Level II Education Specialist Program at a California college or university with a Commission-approved program, including **all** of the following
 - a. An individualized induction plan designed in collaboration with your employer and a California college or university with a Commission-approved program in the area of specialization listed on your Preliminary Level I Credential
 - b. A minimum of two years of successful experience in a public school, nonpublic school, or private school of equivalent status, while holding the Preliminary level I Education Specialist Instruction Credential, verified by your employer
 - c. Obtain the formal recommendation for the credential by the college or university through which your induction plan was completed

Reference: California Education Code, Sections 44227, 44274, 44274.1, 44275.3, and 44275.4, and Title 5, California Code of Regulations, Section 80048.3.1 – 80048.6